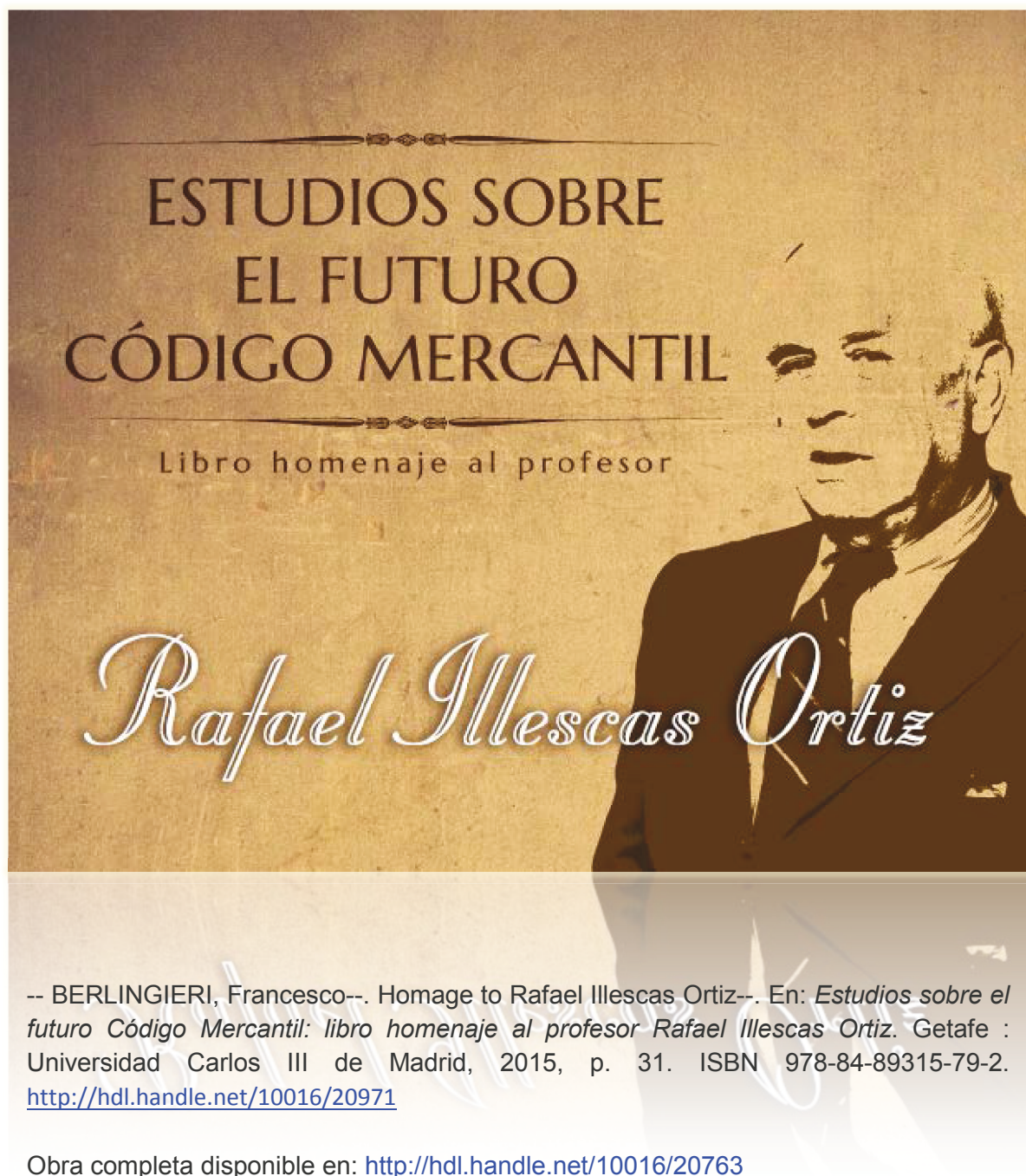




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HOMAGE TO RAFAEL ILLESCAS ORTIZ

FRANCESCO BERLINGIERI^{*}

I met for the first time Prof. Rafael Illescas at the ninth session of the UNCITRAL Working Group on Transport Law, held in New York from 15 to 26 April 2002, that was the first session devoted to the preparation of the Rotterdam Rules, when he was elected chairman of the Working Group. I had then the great pleasure, as president of the Italian delegation, of working under his chairmanship throughout all the thirteen sessions, held in New York and in Vienna, that were required to achieve that goal, the last of them having been held in Vienna in January 2008. For six years I spent each year four weeks with him and I had a great many times the opportunity to admire the ability, competence and kindness with which he directed our debates. It had not been an easy task, given the very many hot issues that were debated and if at the end a consensus was reached on most of them, that was also due to him.

He has been an outstanding chairman and I think that having done myself that job for quite some time I am a good judge.

Thank you, Rafael, for your contribution to the unification of maritime law.

^{*} President ad Honorem of the Comité Maritime International